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Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 11 and 15. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

- Claim 1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide having thermostable cellulase activity and encodes encoded by the amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said nucleic acid is truncated such that one or more of the amino acid residues from position one to position 40 in SEQ ID NO: 2 are deleted in the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule, wherein said polypeptide is more soluble and has a specific cellulase activity that is at least two times greater than the specific activity of the polypeptide having the full-length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, where the specific activity is assessed using carboxymethyl cellulose as substrate.
- Claim 2. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.
- Claim 3. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of Claim 2.

Claims 4 - 6 (Cancelled)

- Claim 7. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 52-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 55-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 58-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 61-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 64-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 67-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 70-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 73-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 76-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3,

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nucleotides 79-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3 and nucleotides 82-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said polypeptide has a specific cellulase activity that is at least two times greater than the specific activity of the polypeptide having the full-length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, where the specific activity is assessed using carboxymethyl cellulose as substrate.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 7 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of Claim 8.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 7 wherein the nucleic acid has the sequence of nucleotides 52-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 85-783 SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 88-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 91-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 94-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 97-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 100-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 103-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 106-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, nucleotides 109-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3 and nucleotides 112-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said polypeptide has a specific cellulase activity that is at least two times greater than the specific activity of the polypeptide having the full-length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, where the specific activity is assessed using carboxymethyl cellulose as substrate.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 11 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of Claim 12.

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- Claim 14. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 11 wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises the sequence of nucleotides 112-783 of SEQ ID NO: 3.
- Claim 15. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion protein comprising a thermostable cellulase encodes encoded by the amino acids of ~~improved thermostable activity and at least about 85% identity compared to~~ SEQ ID NO: 2 and a fusion partner wherein, said thermostable cellulase is a variant of a glycosyl hydrolase of family 12, and is truncated such that one or more of the amino acid residues in position one to position 40 in SEQ ID NO: 2 are deleted in the fusion protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule, wherein said polypeptide is more soluble and has a specific cellulase activity that is at least two times greater than the specific activity of the polypeptide having the full-length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 using carboxymethyl cellulose as substrate.
- Claim 16. (Cancelled)
- Claim 17. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 15 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.
- Claim 18. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of Claim 17.
- Claim 19. (Previously presented) A method for producing a thermostable cellulase comprising maintaining the host cell of Claim 18 under conditions suitable for expression of said nucleic acid construct, whereby said thermostable cellulase is produced.
- Claim 20. (Previously presented) A method for producing a thermostable cellulase

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comprising maintaining the host cell of Claim 19 under conditions suitable for expression of said nucleic acid construct, whereby said thermostable cellulase is produced.

- Claim 21. (Original) A method for producing a thermostable cellulase comprising maintaining the host cell of Claim 9 under conditions suitable for expression of said construct, whereby said thermostable cellulase is produced.
- Claim 22. (Original) The method of Claim 21 further comprising recovering said thermostable cellulase.

Claims 23 - 30 (Cancelled)